
Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

June 8, 2006

Hawaii Olmstead Task Force

- To address the Supreme Court Olmstead decision for Hawaii, then Governor Cayetano created an Olmstead Task Force comprised of:
 - ❑ Individuals with disabilities, their family members,
 - ❑ Advocacy groups,
 - ❑ Non-profit agencies,
 - ❑ Businesses, and
 - ❑ Government agencies
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Hawaii Olmstead Task Force

- Led by the Department of Human Services, Department of Health and the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
 - Met to identify the principles, goals and objectives and strategies of the Hawaii Olmstead Plan.
 - In October 2002, the Plan was finalized and delivered to Governor Cayetano, who in turn transmitted it to the Legislature in November 2002.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- In January 2004, Governor Lingle reconvened the Olmstead Task Force to identify specific actions, assignments and timelines to implement the Hawaii Olmstead Plan.
 - Completed in November 2004.
 - Plan was finalized and transmitted as a recommendation to the Governor in January 2005.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- The Plan was adopted by Governor Lingle in December 2005 and assigned Department of Human Services (DHS) as the lead.
 - Smaller, more targeted Task Force established to implement the Plan. Members include representatives from associations representing individuals with disabilities and various state agencies assigned responsibilities for implementation tasks. First meeting convened in March 2006.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- The Implementation Plan covers a diverse population and a wide range of activities in the areas of education; choice; policies to support living in the community; and infrastructure such as housing, transportation and jobs.
 - Assignments are for a variety of departments and counties.
 - May require funding although the Plan does not specifically identify dollar amounts.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- Even before the Olmstead decision, Hawaii had implemented programs to serve persons with disabilities in the community.
 - The number of hospital and nursing home beds have remained stable for many years. Many individuals return home or to alternative community placements operated under the Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs.
 - The State's only facility for persons with mental retardation was closed in June 1999, long before the Olmstead decision. All previous residents were transitioned into community placements.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- The Department of Health has been actively discharging individuals with serious mental illness from the State Hospital for the past several years.
 - Despite these efforts, Hawaii recognizes that more work is needed to improve the delivery system. The Olmstead Implementation Plan represents the work that needs to be done.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- Even while the Governor had been evaluating the proposed Olmstead Implementation Plan, the State started and completed several activities.
 - The Executive Office on Aging applied and won a grant for a model one-stop center in Honolulu to serve older adults, caregivers and persons with physical disabilities.
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- The Department of Human Services, the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies, and a private contractor completed the RealChoices.org website, an electronic one-stop, to help identify services to assist persons with disabilities. The website is being enhanced with a Benefits Finder feature to identify and “screen” potential services based on the user’s identified needs.
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Hawaii Olmstead Implementation Plan

- ❑ Convened two workgroups to review the existing forms and processes for discharging individuals from institutions. The first group focused on discharges of adults from nursing homes and hospitals. Hospitals and nursing homes are offering choice on a regular basis. Forms were revised to accommodate informational needs.
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- ❑ The second workgroup reviewed the existing forms and processes for supporting medically fragile children in the community.
 - Three forms were consolidated into one form and a new process is being tested.
 - A memorandum of understanding is being developed between the UH School of Medicine and the Department of Human Services to review approximately 10 medically fragile cases. The purpose is to examine how care can be improved.
 - A training program and handbook for new case managers are being developed.

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- ❑ New work groups are being established to:
 - Evaluate and pursue grants (Lt. Gov's Office)
 - Develop consistent statewide training on Olmstead (Department of Human Resources, Department of Human Services and Department of Health)
 - Convene a group of individuals representing various state agencies to assist in discharging into the community the most difficult and complicated cases (individuals do not necessarily meet individual program requirements for services).
 - ❑ The Plan will be updated regularly for completed and newly identified activities.
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